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John H. Looby

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HENRY M. BELVEL was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, June 15, 1842; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 29, 1910. He attended the common schools of Ohio, removing to Wayne county, Iowa, in 1852. He enlisted August 15, 1862, in Co. F, 34th Iowa Infantry, serving as corporal. He was honorably discharged April 10, 1863. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and other engagements in which his regiment took part. In 1868 he entered the newspaper field in Wayne and Decatur counties. He was for a time editor of the *Democrat-Chronicle* of Des Moines, and from November, 1907, to May, 1909, was editor and publisher of the *Grand Army Advocate*. He was secretary of the Iowa State commission created for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the feasibility of voting machines. He was past commander of Kinsman Post, G. A. R., and during his career held many places in the Iowa Department G. A. R.

JOHN H. LOOBY was born in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 25, 1835; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 24, 1909. When twelve years old his father died and he went to live with relatives in Canandaigut, N. Y., where he worked on a farm during the summer, and attended school in the winter. He apprenticed himself for three years to learn the trade of house painting, later going to Rochester to perfect himself in this line of work. In 1856, he removed to Des Moines, Iowa, and began work at his trade. At the first call for volunteers in 1861, he sold out his business and enlisted April 1st, as a private in Company D, Second Iowa Infantry. He was severely wounded at Shiloh, and obliged to leave the service for some weeks. After partial recovery from his wounds, he was commissioned second lieutenant of Company D, 18th Infantry. On account of impaired health he was detailed to detached service, and made acting adjutant of the regiment Sept. 1, 1862, serving until the close of 1863, when he was recommended for promotion to captain. This he declined, having decided to join a colored regiment. He was mustered out of the 18th and commissioned first lieutenant of the 62d U. S. Infantry, and June 3, 1864, was promoted to captain. He was mustered out with his regiment March 31, 1866, at Brownsville, Texas. On May 10th, Congress promoted him to brevet major, as a reward for gallantry, bravery, faithful service and actual worth. After the war he returned to Des Moines and resumed his work as a painter, continuing in this occupation until June 20, 1870. On the death of Adjutant General Baker, Oct. 1, 1876, Mr. Looby was appointed his successor, serving until June 27, 1878. On account of ill health the last years of his life were spent in retirement.

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